

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

Something different—here are three (among many other) hand picked phrases which could usefully be consigned to the literary dustbin.

The first is “THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS—”. This translates as “*What you have just said is absolute balderdash—this is my opinion, and I am always right*”. The fact that this is a phrase espoused by politicians, almost makes one question the pronouncement on principle.

Secondly, “I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY —”. This is arrogant and suggests that the speaker is uninterested in the listener's views, and considers them to be dunderheads unless they agree.

The third is “YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?”. Used after each pronouncement This is a bit more tricky—at face value it translates as “*I think you may be a bit short on grey matter, and unable to grasp the meaning of these pearls of wisdom of mine*”, but in the general context in which it is used, it is probably nearer the mark to interpret it as “*I am not very articulate, but this is what I think, like it or not, matey*”. and is probably used to try and elicit a positive reception.

I rest my case—the verdict is yours, matey.

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Seil and Easdale Community Council had a public meeting on Tuesday 27 November at Easdale Island Community Hall.

The majority of issues with Scottish Water have now been resolved. There are however ongoing planning concerns with the screening around the main water treatment works as permission has been granted for fencing which differs in design agreed by the community. A second, lower, tank is proposed which should help with the levels within the main pipe run especially at times of excess ingress of surface water. The water supply should soon be connected to the boatyard. The orange fence by Cnoc a Challtuinn fence is still to be removed. This has now been referred to the roads department.

Discussions are ongoing to resolve parking issues at Cuan after reports from Luing residents that they were taking their cars over unnecessarily, due to a lack of space. It was confirmed that as both Cuan and the Atlantic Bridge are popular with water-sports groups, additional parking areas are being looked at.

TSL has applied for an amendment of the access road, requesting that it does have to meet standards required of a public road (Ref. No: 12/02435/PP). The footpath planned between the new TSL houses and road has not been built with the soft verge increasingly showing signs of wear. There are also issues with water on the road following the loss of drainage ditches. Concern was expressed by SECC that the original planning application had been changed without community involvement. Since our public meeting SECC have submitted an objection to the changes, requesting that the footpath be reinstated as planned and that the entrance road be up to adoptive standards

Resurfacing of Cnoc a Challtuinn is not accounted for in the 2012-2013 budget. SECC will continue to push for it to be included in 2013-2014 plans due to its increasingly poor state of repair.

Various potholes reported have been filled. The public are encouraged to continue to report these. Positive results have been seen from the reporting system

The knotweed programme has finished for 2012 but will continue next year. There have been visible results. Overhanging bushes remain an issue, particularly around Clachan Seil.

At the last meeting, changes to homecare provision was discussed. As far as SECC are aware, there will be many new care staff. SECC will continue to monitor the situation. PC Moore encouraged residents to report concerns about people affected by a lack of or poor care to the police, social work or GP.

A table-top exercise is due to take place on Easdale Island in January to progress plans for medical evacuation. PC Moore assured the meeting that should a serious incident arise, available resources and personnel would be utilised and individuals evacuated as required. Dr Hannah suggested that the issue of routine evacuations should be addressed as a priority as during critical situations, resources such as the Coastguard and Rescue helicopter 177 are utilised.

There has been increased activity within Argyll and Bute Council regarding emergency planning. It was agreed that a publically available list of local people willing to be contacted in an emergency would be of benefit to the community

Dr. McKerrell MBE, GP on Seil for many years passed away on Saturday 24th November. The Community's condolences are sent to the family.

Ownership of the Sea Wall at Ellenabeich has now been confirmed and work is to start soon to repair the hole in the wall. The Council intend to put up a fence to restrict access to the wall on grounds of safety, agreed when they bought land for the toilet block (Ref. No: 12/02247/CPD).

A meeting of the Kilbrandon Trust is planned soon to progress the purchase by the community of land owned by the Ingles family at Ellenabeich. There has been a generally positive response to these plans.

There have been a number of sneak in thefts in the Oban area. This has not yet occurred on Seil or Easdale, possibly due to the limited road access. Thefts appear to be very specific and well planned. The public are urged to secure properties and outbuildings. In particular, keys left outside are being identified.

For details of planning applications see <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications>

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd January 2013, 19:00, Seil Hall

Merry Christmas from Seil and Easdale Community Council and we look forward to your ongoing support and involvement in 2013.

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## SEIL ISLAND SKIFF—UPDATE

All shares in the project now sold—Skiff turned over and work progressing on the interior—soon be ready for painting.

## WHAT IS ASH DIEBACK ?

Ash dieback is a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called *Chalara fraxinea*. The fungus was described as a new fungal species in 2006 as the cause of ash ([Fraxinus excelsior](#)) mortality in European countries during the last ten years.

The disease affects trees of all ages. Young trees can be killed in one season and older trees tend to succumb after several seasons of infection. It has spread rapidly in continental Europe. In the UK, the disease had initially only been confirmed in trees growing in nurseries or on recently planted ash trees. However, cases have now unfortunately been confirmed in the wider environment in the UK. A surveillance programme completed in November 2012 found the disease in 115 sites including 15 in nurseries, 39 in new planting sites and 61 in the wider environment (forests and woodlands). It is thought that the disease has been in the country for at least 2 years.

The number of sites in Scotland confirmed as having a disease has risen to 23.

**Note:** *Ash dieback does not affect mountain ash ([Sorbus aucuparia](#)).*

Symptoms of ash dieback include;

**On leaves:** Black blotches appear, often at the leaf base and midrib. Affected leaves wilt

**On stems:** Small lens-shaped lesions or necrotic spots appear on the bark of stems and branches and enlarge to form perennial cankers. The infection may girdle the stem and kill it in a single season. If the bark is peeled, the wood underneath has a brownish to grey discoloration. This discoloration extends beyond the bark necrosis

**On whole tree:** Affected trees show extensive dieback of shoot, twig and branches.

Editor's Note—It is comforting to note that Mountain Ash is not affected, otherwise we might have been overrun by witches hereabouts.

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## North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme

Margaret Anfield was the Car Scheme co-ordinator for 8 years, and her recent death brought great sadness to the passengers, volunteers and committee. We all treasure memories of her courtesy, good humour, patience, love of people, and the warmth of her smile. Her commitment and hard work carried through the development and consolidation of the Scheme, leaving an invaluable legacy of goodwill.

While Margaret was off sick the committee covered her work, but now we're happy to say that Caroline Gillanders, a long standing volunteer in Kilmelford, has agreed to manage all aspects of the day to day journey bookings, on a temporary basis, until we are able to determine how best to fill Margaret's shoes.

Caroline can be contacted on 01852 200388. Calls should be made between 9 and 10am Monday to Friday, and if you leave a message Caroline will get back to you as soon as possible.

## EASDALE SURGERY

Over the Festive Season the Surgery will be closed on -

TUESDAY 25th December

WEDNESDAY 26th December

And

TUESDAY 1st January

WEDNESDAY 2nd January

For any emergencies during this period please contact NHS 24—phone number - 08454 242424

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## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

### BOOK SALE—Advance Notice

The Easdale Branch will be holding a Book Sale in Seil Island Hall on Saturday 23rd February 2013 from 11am till 3pm to raise funds for Forces' charities.

Refreshments will be available.

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## HALL LOTTERY RESULTS

### AUGUST

£50 Rollover

£10 K.Lacey

£10 Christine Wills

£10 Sheila Hunt

### SEPTEMBER

£75 Avril Nicol

£10 Kneale Smith

£10 Aiofe Danskin

£10 Brian Phillips

### OCTOBER

£50 R. Barret

£10 J.Colston

£10 C.Watt

£10 M.Gilmour

### NOVEMBER

£50 Rollover

£10 Myra Waddell

£10 Alastair Collie

£10 Anna Davidson

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## SWRI—OPPORTUNITY

If you are interested in Local History, crafts, and charitable activities why not try the SWRI?. So far this year we've had talks on Lighthouses, Sugarcraft and Dunollie House, with Bell Ringing, a talk by the owner of Seafood Temple, and a talk on the Childrens Hospice Association Scotland yet to come. No need to commit to joining—visitors (male and female) are always welcome, and you can be assured of a warm welcome as well as tea and home baking. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month – September to May in Seil Island Hall.

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## THANKS

Seil Island Hall And Easdale School Parent Council wish to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Christmas Craft Fair on 2nd December. A total of £ 988.82 was raised, which will be split equally between the Parent Council and the Hall's Recreation & Amenities group. The event was made even more festive by the appearance of Santa and the carols sing by Seil Sound.

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## NEW YEAR'S DANCE

This will take place on Wednesday 2nd January in Seil Island Hall at 9.30pm with Hector McFadyen's Band.